

The New Europe

The pace and scale of change are unprecedented. All across Central and Eastern Europe entire nations are rebuilding from the ground up, simultaneously launching the construction of democratic societies and market economies.

In framing this new European architecture, the people and reform governments of Central and Eastern Europe are guided by a deep commitment and courageous vision of the future. In this process, the West too is an important architect, and Canada is working hard to help East meet West in a spirit of partnership designed to erase that very distinction.

Charter of Paris for a New Europe: Blueprint for Reform

Historically, the November 1990 Paris Summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) will likely symbolize the end of the Cold War and the emergence of a new European order in the history books of the future. Drawing together all 32 countries of Europe (Albania as an observer), the Soviet Union, Canada and the United States, the Paris Summit marked the first time since 1815 that all European nations had gathered to create a co-operative security structure.

From amid the political predictions and countervailing scepticism emerged the "Charter of Paris for a New Europe." With the bold affirmation that they were "no longer adversaries," the participating states pledged themselves to future relations "founded on respect and co-operation" and to a common



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set of guiding principles: respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; democracy and free elections; the rule of law; economic liberty based on market-oriented economies; social justice; environmental responsibility; and security for all nations.

The charter also initiated the transformation of the CSCE from a series of meetings and agreements to a set of working institutions including, among others, a CSCE Secretariat in Prague and an Office for Free Elections in Warsaw, and established a regular schedule of summits and other high-level meetings.

Also signed at the Paris Summit was the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. The most detailed and far-reaching conventional arms-reduction agreement ever negotiated, the treaty will remove more than 100 000 tanks, artillery, combat vehicles and aircraft from the region stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals; it places equal ceilings

on the remaining deployment of forces in the region and includes strict verification measures.

Architects of Change

Canada's commitment to reform in Central and Eastern Europe was visible early and at the highest levels. In November 1989, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney travelled to the Soviet Union, marking the first such visit by a Canadian Prime Minister in 18 years.

During the trip, 14 bilateral agreements were completed — more than had been signed in the preceding two decades. Chief among these were (a) a declaration of enhanced co-operation in political, trade and economic relations, science and technology, agriculture and culture, and (b) a joint commitment to play an active role in international relations, particularly East-West relations and disarmament.

The close human links between the two nations were highlighted with the announcement that

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (left) with President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989: the first visit to the Soviet Union by a Canadian Prime Minister in 18 years.

a Canadian Consulate would be established in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. In making the announcement, Prime Minister Mulroney noted the nearly one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent.

Some six months later, President Mikhail Gorbachev paid a return visit to Canada. Reflecting the nations' growing ties, the two leaders discussed successful Soviet delegation visits to study Canada's unrivalled public health insurance system and nuclear reactor safety standards, and agreed to intensify their efforts to further East-West understanding.

Canada is enhancing its relations with all the reforming nations of Central and Eastern Europe. Recently, Joe Clark, Canada's former Secretary